

REMARKS

Claims 5-7 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 5 and 6 are amended. No new matter is added. Claims 1-4, 9 and 14 are canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited in those claims. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

The Office Action, on page 2, makes final the Restriction Requirement. Claims 1-4, 9 and 14, are canceled as drawn to a non-elected group of claims.

The Office Action rejects claims 5-7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent 6,392,736 to Furukawa et al. (Furukawa) in view of U.S. Patent 6,529,255 to Sekiguchi, U.S. Patent Application 2001/0017675 to Inoue et al. (Inoue), and U.S. Patent 6,646,689 to Matsuda. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 5 recites, a method of manufacturing a liquid crystal device having an upper substrate made from rigid glass, a lower substrate made from rigid glass, spacers located between the substrates, and a liquid crystal layer held between the substrates, the method including, among other features, forming an upper electrode on the upper substrate and a lower electrode on the lower substrate, and gluing the paired substrates together by pressing the substrates together with the liquid crystal interposed between the upper substrate and the upper electrode on one side and the lower substrate and the lower electrode on the other, a pressure produced in gluing the substrates together being applied to the spacers and the liquid crystal.

None of Furukawa, Sekiguchi, Inoue nor Matsuda teaches or suggests a method of manufacturing a liquid crystal device including forming an upper electrode on the upper substrate and a lower electrode on the lower substrate and pressing the substrates together with the liquid crystal interposed between the upper substrate and the upper electrode on one side and the lower substrate and the lower electrode on the other, a pressure produced in

gluing the substrates together being applied to the spacers and the liquid crystal, as recited in independent claim 5, and similarly in independent claim 6.

Additionally, none of Furukawa, Sekiguchi, Inoue nor Matsuda teaches or suggests a method of manufacturing a liquid crystal device including a pair of substrates both "made from rigid glass," as recited in independent claim 5, and similarly in independent claim 6.

For example, the Office Action asserts that Furukawa teaches a LCD device including a pair of substrates. Notwithstanding these assertions, Furukawa does not teach or suggest that both substrates are rigid. Furukawa teaches, in Fig. 1, substrates 21a, 21b, a liquid crystal composition 28, a seal resin 26 having a continuous annular form, and spacer particles 25 disposed in the liquid crystal composition 28, surrounded by the seal resin 26 and having a spacer distribution density N of 50 - 400 pcs/mm² spacers per square millimeters. See col. 10, col. 13, lines 47-48, and col. 16, lines 11-14. Furukawa also teaches that only one of the substrates 21b may be flexible or both substrates may be flexible 21a, 21b. See Figs. 8(A) and 8B), and col. 21, lines 49-52. Furukawa teaches that that the substrates 21a, 21b are continuously fixed together via rollers 8, 9 by bending at least one of the substrates 21a, 21b. See col. 21, lines 52-54. Therefore, Furukawa requires at least one flexible substrate 21a, 21b to suppress bubbles remaining between the substrates 21a, 21b and to receive pressure and heat from rollers 8, 9. See col. 21, lines 36-43 and 54-56. Therefore, Furukawa teaches a principle of operation that teaches away from two rigid substrates, as set forth in claims 1 and 10.

Sekiguchi, Inoue and Matsuda cannot be permissibly combined with Furukawa to teach a pair of substrates both made from rigid glass. MPEP 2143.01 states:

If the proposed modification or combination of the prior art would change the principle of operation of the prior invention being modified, then the teachings of the references are not sufficient to render the claims *prima facie* obvious.

Because Furukawa explicitly teaches at least one flexible substrate, modifying Furukawa to include an arguably rigid second substrate of Sekiguchi, Inoue or Matsuda is directly contrary to the specific teachings of Furukawa and would change the principle of operation of Furukawa. For at least these reasons, the teachings of Furukawa, Sekiguchi, Inoue and Matsuda are not sufficient to render the claims *prima facie* obvious.

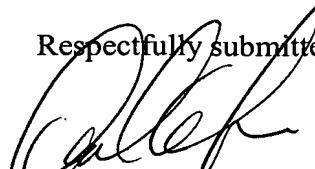
For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 5 is not suggested by any permissible combination of the applied prior art references. Independent claim 6 contains features similar to those recited above with respect to claim 5. Therefore, claim 6 is distinguishable over the applied art for at least the same reasons. Claim 7 depends from independent 5 and is likewise distinguishable over the applied art for at least the reasons discussed above, as well as for additional features claim 7 recites.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 5-7 are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 5-7 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:

Request for Continued Examination

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